

**BLET ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
March 5, 2021
Teleconference Meeting**

Jennifer Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and thanked everyone for attending the March 5, 2021, BLET Advisory Group meeting. Leann Supko conducted a formal roll call. A quorum was present. Jennifer Fisher recognized guests in attendance and asked that they introduce themselves.

Members Present:

Rick Barney, Craven Community College
Kelly Blackwelder, Town of Elon Police Department
Billy Kelly, Rockingham Police Department
Kenneth Klamar, Sunset Beach Police Department
Randy Shepherd, Guilford County Sheriffs' Office
Sammy Turner, Brunswick County Sheriffs' Office
Aaron Vassey, Cleveland Community College
Steve Warren, Western Piedmont Community College

Members Absent:

Richard Tullis, Asheville Police Department
Joseph Cotton, North Carolina State Highway Patrol
Jon Gregory, Wake Technical Community College

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Autumn Hanna, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Brenda Rivera, North Carolina Department of Justice

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Chris Scott, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Diane Konopka, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Michelle Schilling, Criminal Justice Standards Division
Charminique Williams, Criminal Justice Standards Division

Staff Present:

Jennifer Fisher, North Carolina Justice Academy
Leann Supko, North Carolina Justice Academy
Desiree Malmgren, North Carolina Justice Academy
Laurie Austen, North Carolina Justice Academy
Stacy Hollowman, North Carolina Justice Academy
Alex Gazaway, North Carolina Justice Academy

Guests Present:

Mickey Biggs, North Carolina Community Colleges
Tracy McPherson, North Carolina Community Colleges

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of December 11, 2020 meeting minutes

Members were afforded an opportunity to review the minutes from the December 11, 2020 meeting. Sammy Turner made a **motion** to accept the minutes. Rick Barney **seconded**. As this was a teleconference meeting, Leann Supko conducted a formal roll call vote. **None opposed**. No further discussion. **Motion carried**.

- BLET Job Task Analysis (JTA) Revision Update—BLET 2023

Alex Gazaway provided the BLET Advisory Group with an update on revisions for the new BLET Curriculum. Mr. Gazaway stated four to five lesson plans remain to be developed in Module 2 of the BLET curriculum revision. Some lesson plans are under legal review or final format revisions – others are under final review. Mr. Gazaway stated the revision project is approximately halfway complete with the next module containing the traffic portion, which has six to seven lesson plans to develop. Module 4 is expected to be complete by mid-summer.

As of now, the BLET curriculum hours are approximately 700. The hours are still developing and can change as the last two modules may allow/prompt merging or expansion of topics. Mr. Gazaway believes that the Criminal Justice Commission will approve the changes as long as they follow the JTA recommendations and the curriculum flows efficiently. Mr. Gazaway stated the revision team is always open to feedback, and feedback is greatly appreciated. There have been many recommendations from stakeholders which the JTA revision team is looking to incorporate. Mrs. Fisher asked Mr. Gazaway to update the group on discussions with the Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission regarding crisis intervention training.

Mr. Gazaway explained that additional crisis intervention training in BLET was recommended from various reports. One suggestion was to add another week of training to the new curriculum with all 40 hours of the national Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) curriculum. Other groups recommended adding de-escalation training and additional training on interaction/communication with people with mental illness. Both recommendations are being taken into consideration. The team is currently looking at what has already been developed in the current BLET curriculum and how to accommodate the recommendations. Approximately 16 hours of the national CIT curriculum was added a few years ago by the BLET Advisory Group in the Mental Illness block of instruction. In the current Problem-Solving block, the JTA revision team has incorporated as many aspects of crisis intervention training as possible. The revision team is looking at various concerns while attempting to best incorporate the suggestions from various stakeholders.

For instance, the CIT curriculum varies throughout the state, from the mountains to the coast, which is a barrier discussed with the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission in providing consistent training throughout all agencies. The revision team is looking to incorporate universal crisis intervention training aspects into the new BLET. Additionally, the team has found that a majority of the certified criminal justice general instructors are not certified CIT instructors. CIT is required to be

taught by a certified CIT instructor which differs from the CJ General Instructor certification. CIT is typically taught by CIT certified instructors that are clinicians, mental health practitioners, psychologists, etc. Furthermore, certification issues arise as some instructors do not meet the limited lecture requirements issued by CJ Standards. The revision team is trying their best to get crisis intervention training added/updated to make sure stakeholder's concerns are met while implementing training that is applicable statewide.

Additionally, the revision team looks to reduce the First Responder from 32 hours to 16 hours and incorporate skill-building exercises related to crisis intervention training. The idea is to teach Basic First Aid, and CPR then place additional First Responder training in other lesson plans. For instance, tourniquet application to injured persons could be taught in Patrol Techniques or Rapid Deployment block of instruction. As the team researched, they found other states that only require recruits to become CPR certified before/during their BLET. They do not get any first responder training in BLET. The team did not think that was the correct route to go as they are looking to cut hours in First Responder, not eliminate it. Mr. Gazaway asked that the Advisory Group offer input, thoughts, and ideas to help develop the curriculum.

Another idea discussed by the revision team is the electronic delivery of lesson plans. Students would have access to the lesson plans on tablets and could revert to any lesson plan throughout the training with ease via hyperlink. On many occasions, one lesson plan links to another lesson plan for referencing as the curriculum is developed in a building-block process. The team researched and found another state that used tablets for training. Tablets are multifunctional as they can be used in field exercises for notetaking or photographing. The revision team is looking to see if this is viable in NC as more agencies become more technologically savvy. Some School Directors have students who request a PDF copy of lesson plans. Younger students are accustomed to having everything online/digital. The revision team is exploring if NC can move BLET in that direction. Steve Warren expressed concern over the use of tablets in the classroom. Mr. Warren inquired if tablets will be an optional resource for School Directors? Mr. Gazaway stated tablets would be an option, and paper copies will continue to be available for purchase. Mr. Gazaway elaborated that nothing electronic will affect training materials.

Jennifer Fisher inquired if there was any decision on what to name the new BLET revision? Mr. Gazaway stated there had been a discussion on referring to the BLET revision as BLET 2023. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Warren expressed his support in the reduction of the First Responders block of instruction. Aaron Vassey thanked Mr. Gazaway and the revision team for doing a fantastic job. Mr. Vassey stated that all feedback he has received from professionals in the field is overwhelmingly positive. Mr. Vassey noted the process of adding/updating crisis intervention training would move BLET in the direction of a top-tier curriculum. Mr. Vassey expressed his appreciation of the Revision Team recognizing where we were, what we've done, and what we can accomplish.

Mrs. Fisher asked that the BLET Advisory Group continue to review materials thoroughly. Mrs. Fisher asked that, as the group reviews lesson plans, they keep in mind the School Directors, instructors, and student's needs and perspectives. Furthermore, Mrs. Fisher requested that members copy her on any feedback or send it directly to her.

Mrs. Fisher would like to remain in the loop and know what recommendations are coming from the BLET Advisory Group.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ Proposed Lesson Plan Revisions

Jennifer Fisher reiterated to the group that only critical revisions will be made, such as statutory changes or fixing incorrect information, until the BLET 2023 curriculum is complete. All new information will be channeled to the BLET 2023 revision.

Subject Control Arrest Techniques Lesson Plan

Mrs. Fisher advised that the SCAT Lesson Plan revision regards the case study of *Morgan V. Spivey*. Clarifying information was added in the instructor notes prompted by questions regarding bystander liability. This change only impacts the instructor notes. Additionally, the section that discusses weapon retention specific to Correctional Officer Meghan Callahan was removed as it was not specific to law enforcement officers. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion. No discussion ensued. Kenneth Klamar made a **motion** to accept the proposed revision. Kelly Blackwelder **seconded**. As this was a teleconference meeting, Leann Supko conducted a formal roll call vote. None opposed. **Motion carried.**

Arrest, Search and Seizure, and Constitutional Law

Mrs. Fisher stated clarifying information regarding juvenile identification orders was added to this lesson plan. Many questions concerning differentiating adult identification orders from juvenile identification orders promoted the revision. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion. No discussion ensued. Randy Shepherd made a **motion** to accept the proposed revision. Billy Kelly **seconded**. As this was a teleconference meeting, Leann Supko conducted a formal roll call vote. None opposed. **Motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Division Reports

North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Division Report

- No report at this time.

North Carolina Sheriff's Training and Standards Commission Division Report

- No report at this time.

North Carolina Department of Justice Division Report

- No report at this time.

Adjournment

Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion. No discussion ensued. Kelly Blackwelder made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Randy Shepherd **seconded**. Leann Supko conducted a formal roll call vote. None opposed. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Leann Supko
Program Assistant
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date
April 27, 2021